



Dear Citizens,

We have a very serious problem in Baltimore—and it is one that few people know about and others rarely speak about. When looking at the local newspapers and TV stations, you would believe that HIV and AIDS have disappeared from the City of Baltimore. In December 2002, at my urging, Baltimore issued a “state of emergency” as it pertains to HIV and AIDS. And later, I established a Commission on HIV and AIDS to help our City’s leadership understand the repercussions this disease has on our future.

Today, we know that Baltimore City has the 2nd highest number of annual AIDS cases in the United States.

Instead of getting better, our condition is getting worse. And, the solution is easy - spread the word, HIV and AIDS are preventable.

The After-School Institute is a prominent agency in the city providing training for youth, youth workers/after-school program providers and parents in the area of HIV prevention. About a year and a half ago, when I was President of the City Council, I asked them to assist us with strengthening our efforts to get a clear prevention message out in the city. One of their priorities is to sound the alarm to our youth who sadly still engage in risky behavior.

They, along with the Baltimore City Health Department, Maryland AIDS Administration, 21st Century group, and 92Q, joined me to unveil their new social marketing campaign geared specifically to youth that includes TV & radio Public Service Announcements, bus shelter billboards, bus posters, back packs, wrist bands and T-shirts. The campaign is part of a training program to build knowledge and skills in risk reduction. It promotes abstinence, condom use and testing under the slogan, “Spread the word, not the disease – AIDS is no joke”.

We can no longer afford to withhold the keys to preventing the spread of this disease to another generation of Baltimore’s residents. Through partnerships like this, I am certain that

we can reach out to everyone in the city and make sure the message is heard loud and clear.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Volunteers Needed for Artscape!

July 20-22, 2007

Artscape, the largest arts festival in the mid-Atlantic region, is in need of volunteers like you to make the festival a success! Volunteers are needed in a wide variety of areas, including the Artist Market, Art Galleries, Family Art Park, Hospitality Areas, and many others.

As a thank you, all volunteers receive one free parking pass, one free t-shirt, refreshments, and access to indoor restrooms and air conditioning!

If you are interested in volunteering for Artscape, please email BOPAvolunteer@promotionandarts.com.

St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival

This Weekend, June 8-10

The St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival is a showcase of the Greek community featuring dancing, costumes, dishes including patstitsio, spanakopita, and souvlaki, and tours of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Admission is FREE

Friday, 12 :00 Noon – 11:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
520 South Ponca Street
Baltimore

More Information: www.greekfolkfestival.com

Baltimore Farmers' Market

Sundays Under the JFX

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheese, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: How Baltimore sees itself

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